

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. In a video source device, a method comprising:  
2 a video source application requesting from a video hardware interface status  
3 with respect to a link linking said video source device to an external video sink  
4 device, and supplementing said status request with a first basis value to a  
5 symmetric ciphering/deciphering process;  
6 the video source application receiving from said video hardware interface  
7 said requested status and a verification key, generated through said symmetric  
8 ciphering/deciphering process employing said first basis value; and  
9 the video source application verifying the correctness of said verification key  
10 to determine whether to trust said provided status.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises said video  
2 source application supplementing said status request with a selection key for the  
3 video hardware interface to use to generate an authentication key for use to  
4 generate said verification key.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said verification of the correctness of the  
2 received verification key comprises said video source application independently  
3 generating its own copy of the verification key.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said independent generation of said video  
2 source application's own copy of said verification key comprises said video source

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3 application independently generating its own copy of an authentication key by  
4 summing a plurality of cryptographic keys over a selection key received from said  
5 video hardware interface.

1 5. The method of claim 3, wherein said independent generation of said video  
2 source application's own copy of said verification key comprises said video source  
3 application applying a one way function to at least a first selected subset of said first  
4 basis value provided to said video hardware interface using an independently  
5 generated copy of an authentication key.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein said independent generation of said video  
2 source application's own copy of said verification key further comprises said video  
3 source application applying said one way function to a selection key said video  
4 hardware interface received from said video sink device for use by said video  
5 hardware interface to authenticate said video sink device, using the result of said  
6 first application of the one-way function.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said independent generation of said video  
2 source application's own copy of said verification key further comprises said video  
3 source application applying said one way function to at least a second selected  
4 subset of said first basis value provided to said video hardware interface using the  
5 result of said second application of the one-way function.

1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein said independent generation of said video  
2 source application's own copy of said verification key further comprises said video

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3 source application applying said one way function to at least said status using the  
4 result of said second application of the one-way function.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises  
2 said video source application requesting from said video hardware interface a  
3 secret employed by said video hardware interface to cipher video to be transmitted  
4 by said video hardware interface to said external video sink device, and  
5 supplementing said secret request with a second basis value to said symmetric  
6 ciphering/deciphering process;

7 the video source application receiving from said video hardware interface  
8 said requested secret in a ciphered form, having been ciphered with a ciphering key  
9 generated using said symmetric ciphering/deciphering process and employing said  
10 second basis value; and

11 the video source application deciphering said ciphered secret using an  
12 independently generated copy of said ciphering key.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein said method further comprises said video  
2 source application supplementing said secret request with a selection key for the  
3 video hardware interface to use to generate an authentication key for use by said  
4 symmetric ciphering/deciphering process.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein said method further comprises said video  
2 source application independently generating its own copy of the ciphering key.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein said independent generation of said video  
2 source application's own copy of said ciphering key comprises said video source

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1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein said independent generation of said video  
2 source application's own copy of said ciphering key comprises said video source  
3 application applying a one way function to at least a first selected subset of said  
4 second basis value provided to said video hardware interface using an  
5 independently generated copy of an authentication key.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein said independent generation of said video  
2 source application's own copy of said ciphering key further comprises said video  
3 source application applying said one way function to at least a second selected  
4 subset of said second basis value provided to said video hardware interface using  
5 the result of said first application of the one-way function.

10 said basis value; and

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1     20.     The method of claim 19, wherein said independent generation of said video  
2     source application's own copy of said ciphering key further comprises said video  
3     source application applying said one way function to at least a second selected

4 subset of said basis value provided to said video hardware interface using the result  
5 of said first application of the one-way function.

1 21. In a video source device, a method comprising:

2 a video hardware interface receiving from a video source application a  
3 request for status with respect to a link linking said video source device to an  
4 external video sink device, and said status request being supplemented with a first  
5 basis value to a symmetric ciphering/deciphering process;

6 the video hardware interface returning said requested status to said video  
7 source application, and accompanying said returned requested status with a  
8 verification key, generated using said symmetric ciphering/deciphering process and  
9 employing said first basis value, to allow said video source application to determine  
10 whether to trust said returned status.

1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein said method further comprises said video  
2 hardware interface further accompanying said returned status with a selection key  
3 for the video source application to use to independently generate its own copy of an  
4 authentication key for use to independently generate its own copy of said verification  
5 key.

1 23. The method of claim 21, wherein said generation of said verification key  
2 comprises said video hardware interface generating an authentication key by  
3 summing a plurality of cryptographic keys over a selection key received from said  
4 video source application.

1 28. The method of claim 21, wherein said method further comprises  
2 said video hardware interface receiving from said video source application  
3 request for a secret employed by said video hardware interface to cipher video to be  
4 transmitted by said video hardware interface to said external video sink device, said  
5 secret request being also supplemented with a second basis value to said  
6 symmetric ciphering/deciphering process; and

1 33. In a video source device, a method comprising



2 a video hardware interface receiving from a video source application request  
3 for a secret employed by said video hardware interface to cipher video to be  
4 transmitted by said video hardware interface to an external video sink device, said  
5 secret request being supplemented with a basis value to a symmetric  
6 ciphering/deciphering process; and

7 said video hardware interface returning said requested secret in a ciphered  
8 form to said video source application, the secret having been ciphered by a  
9 ciphering key generated using said symmetric ciphering/deciphering process and  
10 employing said basis value.

1 34. The method of claim 33, wherein said method further comprises said video  
2 hardware interface receiving from said video source application a selection key  
3 supplementing said secret request for the video hardware interface to use to  
4 generate an authentication key for use in said symmetric ciphering/deciphering  
5 process.

1 35. The method of claim 33, wherein said generation of said ciphering key  
2 comprises said video hardware interface generating an authentication key by  
3 summing a plurality of cryptographic keys over a selection key received from said  
4 video source application.

1 36. The method of claim 33, wherein said generation of said ciphering key  
2 comprises said video hardware interface applying a one way function to at least a  
3 first selected subset of said basis value using an authentication key.

1 37. The method of claim 36, wherein said generation of said ciphering key further  
2 comprises said video hardware interface applying said one way function to at least a  
3 second selected subset of said basis value using the result of said first application of  
4 the one-way function.

1 38. An article of manufacture comprising:  
2 a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming  
3 instructions implementing a video source application that requests from a video  
4 hardware interface status with respect to a link linking said video source device to  
5 an external video sink device, and supplements said status request with a basis  
6 value to a symmetric ciphering/deciphering process, when the programming  
7 instructions are executed by a processor, the video source application, upon  
8 receiving from said video hardware interface said requested status and a verification  
9 key generated using said symmetric ciphering/deciphering process and employing  
10 said basis value, further verifies the correctness of said verification key to determine  
11 whether to trust said provided status.

1 39. The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein as part of said verification of  
2 the correctness of the received verification key, said video source application  
3 independently generates its own copy of an authentication key by summing a  
4 plurality of cryptographic keys over a selection key received from said video  
5 hardware interface.

1 40. The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein as part of said verification of  
2 the correctness of the received verification key, said video source application  
3 applies a one way function to at least a first selected subset of said basis value

4 provided to said video hardware interface using an independently generated copy of  
5 an authentication key.

1 41. An article of manufacture comprising:

2 a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming  
3 instructions implementing a video source application that requests from a video  
4 hardware interface a secret employed by said video hardware interface to cipher  
5 video to be transmitted by said video hardware interface to an external video sink  
6 device, and supplements said secret request with a basis value to said symmetric  
7 ciphering/deciphering process, when the programming instructions are executed by  
8 a processor, the video source application, upon receiving from said video hardware  
9 interface said requested secret in a ciphered form, having been ciphered using a  
10 ciphering key generated using said symmetric ciphering/deciphering process and  
11 employing said basis value, further deciphers said ciphered secret using an  
12 independently generated copy of said ciphering key.

1 42. The article of manufacture of claim 41, wherein said video source application  
2 independently generates its own copy of said ciphering key, including generation of  
3 an authentication key by summing a plurality of cryptographic keys over a selection  
4 key received from said video hardware interface.

1 43. The article of manufacture of claim 41, wherein said video source application  
2 independently generates its own copy of said ciphering key, including application of  
3 a one way function to at least a first selected subset of said basis value provided to  
4 said video hardware interface, using an independently generated copy of an  
5 authentication key.

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1 44. An apparatus comprising:

2 a video hardware interface equipped to securely transmit digital video to an  
3 external video sink device coupled to said apparatus by way of said video hardware  
4 interface;

5 a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming  
6 instructions implementing a video source application that requests from said video  
7 hardware interface status with respect to said coupling between said video hardware  
8 interface and said external video sink device, and supplements said status request  
9 with a basis value to a symmetric ciphering/deciphering process, when the  
10 programming instructions are executed, the video source application, upon receiving  
11 from said video hardware interface said requested status and a verification key,  
12 generated using said symmetric ciphering/deciphering process and employing said  
13 basis value, further verifies the correctness of said verification key to determine  
14 whether to trust said provided status; and

15 a processor coupled to said storage medium and said video hardware  
16 interface to execute said programming instructions.

1 45. The apparatus of claim 44, wherein said video source application  
2 independently generates its own copy of the verification key by summing a plurality  
3 of cryptographic keys over a selection key received from said video hardware  
4 interface, for use to verify the correctness of the received verification key.

1 46. The apparatus of claim 44, wherein as part of said verification of the  
2 correctness of the received verification key, said video source application applies a  
3 one way function to at least a first selected subset of said basis value provided to

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4 said video hardware interface using an independently generated copy of an  
5 authentication key.

1 47. An apparatus comprising:

2 a video hardware interface equipped to securely transmit digital video to an  
3 external video sink device coupled to said apparatus by way of said video hardware  
4 interface;

5 a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming  
6 instructions implementing a video source application that requests from said video  
7 hardware interface a secret employed by said video hardware interface to cipher  
8 video to be transmitted by said video hardware interface to said external video sink  
9 device, and supplements said secret request with a basis value to said symmetric  
10 ciphering/deciphering process, when the programming instructions are executed,  
11 the video source application, upon receiving from said video hardware interface said  
12 requested secret in a ciphered form, having been ciphered using a ciphering key  
13 generated using said symmetric ciphering/deciphering process and employing said  
14 basis value, further deciphers said ciphered secret using an independently  
15 generated copy of said ciphering key; and

16 a processor coupled to said storage medium and said video hardware  
17 interface to execute said programming instructions.

1 48. The apparatus of claim 47, wherein said video source application  
2 independently generates its own copy of said ciphering key, including generation of  
3 an authentication key by summing a plurality of cryptographic keys over a selection  
4 key received from said video hardware interface.

- 1 49. The apparatus of claim 47, wherein said video source application
- 2 independently generates its own copy of said ciphering key, including application of
- 3 a one way function to at least a first selected subset of said basis value provided to
- 4 said video hardware interface using an independently generated copy of an
- 5 authentication key.

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